

TO THE
WINCHESTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health,
for 1908.

GENTLEMEN,

The number of deaths registered in the district during the year, together with those in the County Hospital and Workhouse, belonging to the district, was 100, being 3 less than last year, and equal to a death rate of 11·3 per 1000.

The births registered were 212, being 19 more than last year, and equal to a birth rate of 23·9 per 1000.

The Infant Mortality, which represents the number of deaths of children under one year of age per 1000 births, was 47·6, which is the lowest that has been registered in the district, and compares very favourably with the average of 73·2 for the past eight years, and also with that for the whole of Rural England and Wales, as given below.

The deaths from Zymotic disease, or the seven chief Epidemic diseases, viz.—Small-pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping-cough, Enteric, and Diarrhœa, were six in number, which is equal to a rate of 0·68 per 1000. This, although considerably less than that for the whole of England and Wales, is somewhat higher than our average, and is accounted for by there being four deaths in young children from Whooping-cough.

The following table shows the various rates for the district compared with those for Rural England and Wales for the year:—

	Birth Rate	Infant Mortality	Seven chief Epidemic Diseases	All Causes
Winchester Rural District ...	23·9	47·6	0·68	11·3
Rural England and Wales ...	26·2	110·0	0·99	14·7

Population.—This, as in previous reports, has been calculated on the assumption that it is decreasing at the rate of 25 per annum, as it did in the ten years between the last two censuses. Although I have thought it best to keep to this method of calculation, there is every probability that the population is much higher, as a considerable number of new houses are built every year, and very few pulled down, and also the average number of births registered is more than double the deaths.

All parts of the district have been periodically visited by me.

House Accommodation.—This continues to improve. Plans for 42 new dwelling houses have been passed. Twenty cottages have been repaired, and 10 closed owing to their insanitary condition. In 5 instances overcrowding was abated.

Sewerage and Drainage.—The Twyford sewerage system, which was fully reported upon in my last annual report, continues to work satisfactorily, and answers its purpose very well in dealing with those houses which are able, owing to their situation, to use it. No other part of the district has a public sewer. There has been more than the usual number of nuisances from overflowing cesspits, but this is, no doubt, partly owing to the greater quantity of water used where a public supply has been laid on. The suggestion which I made last year, that the Council should undertake the emptying of cesspits and provide a scavenging cart for the village of Twyford, has not been carried out. The matter was referred to the Parish Council, who did not consider it necessary. I have received no complaints of the highway ditch in this village, which was mentioned in my last report.

Water Supply.—The South Hants Water Company continues to give a good supply of water to the villages of Twyford, Shawford, and Colden Common. Sparsholt has now an excellent supply of water from a new well at Crabwood. Standpipes have been erected in the village, and the mains have been extended to the neighbourhood of Harestock and Littleton. In Fair Oak and Horton Heath there are a good many shallow wells, which are not above suspicion. I hope during the coming year to go more fully into this matter, as I have no doubt the South Hants Company would extend their supply to this district if it were shown that there was sufficient demand for it. No case of illness has been traced to water supply. With reference to new houses, it was decided, upon my recommendation, that a notice should be served upon all owners pointing out the provisions of the Public Health Water Act, which require a certificate from the Council that there is a proper water supply, before such houses are occupied.

Infectious Disease.—The number of cases notified during the year was 44, namely:—Scarlet Fever, 25; Diphtheria, 14; Enteric Fever, 2; Erysipelas, 2; Puerperal Fever, 1.

Scarlet Fever.—The 25 cases notified were divided into 8 different outbreaks in various parts of the district, and having no connection with one another. Five of the outbreaks were limited to one single case. The largest consisted of 9 children in 2 families.

Diphtheria.—There were 14 cases notified, 3 different outbreaks occurring. The first consisted of five cases at Weston Down; a gipsy child encamped there first developed the disease, and in visiting the neighbourhood I found three other children in cottages close by suffering from the complaint; one other case from the same cottages was notified three days later. The second outbreak was in Compton parish amongst the school children. The disease appeared in five different families, and it was difficult to say which was the first case to develop, as several of the children had been ill for some days before it was discovered. In one or two of the houses there were insanitary surroundings, but the disease evidently spread through contact at school. The latter was closed and disinfected, the cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, and the disease was stamped out in a fortnight. The third outbreak was at Crowl Hill, and consisted of one solitary case, for which no cause could be discovered.

Enteric Fever.—Two cases occurred, one being a nurse in the Victoria Isolation Hospital for the city of Winchester, who was attending a similar case, the other being at Avington, the patient having contracted the disease in London. This case was removed to the County Hospital.

Puerperal Fever.—The only case which occurred was at Avington. The patient had been attended by a registered midwife, who immediately sent for medical advice when the disease appeared. Every precaution was taken, the patient recovered, and there was no further case.

It has often been impossible to trace the cause of some of these diseases. I have in every case immediately visited the patient's house, and any houses in the vicinity where possibly there might have been other cases. On one occasion I visited the homes of over a hundred children, but could find no cause of infection. As regards Diphtheria, it is now well known that there frequently exist what are called "Carrier Cases," that is, children who continually have the Diphtheria bacillus in their throats, and who, though exhibiting none of the symptoms of the disease themselves, are able to give Diphtheria to others with whom they come in contact. These cases can only be discovered by making a bacteriological examination of their throats, and no doubt in the case of an epidemic it would be advisable to do this, but fortunately we have not had any serious outbreak to cope with. The difficulty with Scarlet Fever is no doubt due to the very mild cases which occur, some of which are not recognized as such, and consequently no precaution is taken and others become infected. Several cases during the year had no rash whatever, but as other children in the same house had typical rashes there was no doubt about the diagnosis.

Measles.—This disease was prevalent at East Stratton at the end of last year, and continued until the middle of January. The schools were closed, but this was not done with the idea of checking the epidemic, but on account of the large number of children absent from school, which would have seriously interfered with the grant.

Whooping-cough was epidemic at Owslebury in January, and the school was closed for the same reason.

Cancer.—In my last report I mentioned that there had been a large number of deaths from this disease during the year, but that I hoped it was only a coincidence. I am glad to say that the deaths this year have only been about half the number, so that I hope my surmise is correct. There were nine deaths altogether.

The Diamond Jubilee Hospital.—This was open (with the exception of two or three weeks), from April until the end of the year. Fourteen cases of Diphtheria were admitted and twenty-three of Scarlet Fever. No deaths occurred in the Institution. Two cases of Scarlet Fever were treated at their own homes. One was a doubtful case, isolation was carried out as far as possible, and although there were several other children in the house, no further case occurred. The other was in a cottage, well isolated, with no other children, the parents were not willing to have the child removed, but every precaution was taken, and there was no spread of the disease.

Disinfection.—In my last report I mentioned that we had no proper apparatus for this purpose. At your request I communicated with the City Authorities to see if they would allow the use of their Steam Disinfector, but this was refused. Houses are now disinfected with Formaldehyde vapour, supplemented by washing and scrubbing. A cabinet has been constructed at the Isolation Hospital, where clothes can be treated in a similar way. This appears to have been successful, as we have had no return cases when children have been sent home, but it could not be relied upon in the case of a mattress which had become very much infected, in which case the only alternative would be to destroy it.

Summary of Expenses:—

						£	s	d
Land and Buildings	...	..	...	...	...	25	16	8
Tradesmen's Accounts	...	...	...	...	...	101	13	4
Nurses and Medical Officer	...	...	...	...	...	84	12	0
Horse and Carriage Hire	...	...	...	...	...	4	9	6
Other Expenses, including Wages, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	49	1	7
						£265	13	1

Dairies and Cowsheds.—As usual a considerable amount of attention has been given to these. The Inspector has made continual visits to the various dairies and cowsheds in the district throughout the year, on many of which occasions I have accompanied him. Several new buildings have been erected, and a large number paved and drained or cleansed and whitewashed.

The Public Health Amendment Act, 1907, Parts I, II, III, and IV, with the exception of Section 163, has been adopted.

The Registration of Births Act has not been adopted.

Factory and Workshop Act.—All the Bakehouses in the district have been continually visited by the Inspector or myself, and attention paid to their general cleanliness. No Outworkers names have been registered.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEO. A. E. ROBERTS, D. P. H.

Twyford,

February 16th, 1909.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1908 and previous Years.

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	Births		Total Deaths Registered in the District				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District		
				Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages					Number	Rate*	
		Number	Rate*	Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number	Rate*						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1900	9074	171	18·8	25	146·2	127	14·0	...	...	No Return	127	14·0
1901	9049	198	21·9	10	50·5	96	10·6	...	...		96	10·6
1902	9024	223	24·7	14	62·8	93	10·3	2	2		91	10·1	
1903	8999	220	24·4	20	90·9	101	11·2	3	3		98	10·9	
1904	8974	202	22·5	11	54·5	82	9·1	3	3		79	8·8	
1905	8949	216	24·1	17	78·7	93	10·4	0	0		93	10·4	
1906	8924	217	24·3	13	59·9	73	8·2	0	0		22	95	10·6
1907	8899	193	21·7	12	62·2	86	9·7	0	0		17	103	11·6
Averages for years 1900-07	8986	205	22·8	15	73·2	94	10·5	...	...	...	98	10·9
1908	8874	212	23·9	10	47·6	85	9·6	3	3	18	100	11·3	

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated at per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—61000.

Total Population at all Ages—9049
Number of Inhabited Houses—1983
Average number of Persons per House—4·6

at Census of 1901.

I.	II.	III.
Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District	Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District	Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District.
Victoria Isolation Hospital	County Hospital Winchester Union Workhouse	

Is the Union Workhouse within the District?—No.

TABLE II.
Vital Statistics of Separate Localities in 1908 and previous Years.

Names of localities	1 WHOLE DISTRICT				2 TWYFORD				3 WORTHY				4 MICHELDEVER				5 SUBURBAN			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year	Births Regis- tered	Deaths at all Ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population esti- mated to middle of each year	Births Regis- tered	Deaths at all Ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population esti- mated to middle of each year	Births Regis- tered	Deaths at all Ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population esti- mated to middle of each year	Births Regis- tered	Deaths at all Ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population esti- mated to middle of each year	Births regis- tered	Deaths at all Ages	Deaths under 1 year
1900	9074	171	127	25	3729	77	49	8	2866	45	37	8	2154	49	41	9	325	...	...	...
1901	9049	198	96	10	3736	75	38	6	2852	63	32	1	2139	51	22	2	322	9	4	1
1902	9024	223	91	14	3743	86	41	7	2838	63	25	3	2124	57	24	3	319	17	1	1
1903	8999	220	98	20	3750	99	43	9	2824	48	24	4	2109	66	29	6	316	7	2	1
1904	8974	202	79	11	3757	89	37	6	2810	48	15	3	2094	57	25	2	313	8	2	0
1905	8949	216	93	17	3764	90	46	7	2796	56	20	2	2079	59	25	8	310	11	2	0
1906	8924	217	95	13	3771	115	51	8	2782	45	26	3	2064	46	15	0	307	11	3	2
1907	8899	193	103	12	3778	86	42	4	2768	49	27	3	2049	55	29	5	304	3	5	0
Averages of years 1900-07	8986	205	98	15	3753	90	43	7	2817	52	26	3	2101	55	26	4	314	8	2	1
1908	8874	212	100	10	3785	96	43	5	2754	47	31	4	2034	57	24	1	301	12	2	0

TABLE III.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1908.

Notifiable Disease	Cases notified in Whole District							Total Cases notified in each Locality				No. of cases removed to Hospital from each Locality				
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years						1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	Twyford	H Worthy	Micheldever	Suburban	Twyford	H Worthy	Micheldever	Suburban	Total cases removed to Hospital
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	14	...	4	9	1	...	...	9	...	5	...	9	...	5	...	14
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever...	25	..	5	17	2	1	...	18	2	5	...	16	2	5	...	23
Typhus Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	..	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	2*
Relapsing Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	..	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	44	..	9	26	4	5	...	27	6	10	1	25	3	10	1	39

Isolation Hospital—The “Diamond Jubilee,” Easton.

* One occurred in the City Isolation Hospital, and the other was removed to the County Hospital.

TABLE IV.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1908.

Causes of Death	Deaths at the Subjoined Ages of Residents whether occurring in or beyond the District								Deaths at all Ages of Residents belonging to Localities, whether occurring in or beyond the District				Total Deaths whether of Residents or non-Residents in Public Institutions in the District
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards		Twyford	Worthy	Micheldever	Suburban	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8						
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever .. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Whooping-cough	4	3	1	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria(including Membranous Croup)	...	1	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric .. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other continued ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	..
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis(Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	8	1	...	1	1	5	...	4	3	1	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease	9	...	...	...	...	4	5	6	...	2	1	...	...
Bronchitis	10	1	...	...	...	1	8	5	2	3	...	...	...
Pneumonia	7	...	...	1	...	1	5	2	3	2	...	...	...
Pleurisy ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Venereal Diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth... ..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	1	...	...	..	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases	13	1	...	..	1	5	6	...	5	7	1	...	...
Accidents	5	...	1	...	1	3	...	2	3	...	...	...	.
Suicides ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All other causes	37	2	2	1	...	11	21	19	10	8	...	...	...
All causes	100	10	5	5	3	32	45	43	31	24	2	3	

TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1908.

Deaths from stated causes in weeks and months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	Total Deaths Under 1 Year
<i>All Causes :—</i>																	
Certified	1	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	2	...	1	...	1	1	1	...	10
Uncertified ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<i>I.—Common Infectious Diseases :—</i>																	
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3
<i>II.—Diarrhoeal Diseases :—</i>																	
Diarrhoea, all forms ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<i>III.—Wasting Diseases :—</i>																	
Premature Birth	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Defects ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Injury at Birth ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Want of Breast-milk, Starvation ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
<i>IV.—Tuberculous Diseases :—</i>																	
Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Peritonitis : Tabes Mesenterica ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
<i>V.—Other Causes :—</i>																	
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Convulsions ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laryngitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Causes ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	1	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	2	...	1	...	1	1	1	...	10

WINCHESTER RURAL DISTRICT.—Population (estimated to middle of 1908)—8874.

Births in the year { Legitimate, 204.
 { Illegitimate, 6.

Deaths in the year of { Legitimate Infants, 10.
 { Illegitimate Infants, 0.

Deaths from all Causes at all ages, 98.

WINCHESTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1908.

- 9 Complaints received
- 20 Houses Disinfected.
- 20 Cottages Repaired.
- 15 Houses where the Drains have been Repaired.
- 9 Houses where the Drains have been Relaid throughout.
- 17 New Earth Closets provided to replace Old Privies.
- 45 Nuisances abated arising from the accumulation of Manure, etc.
- 80 Nuisances abated where the Cesspools required cleaning out.
- 10 Cottages Closed owing to their Insanitary Condition.
- 5 Nuisances abated from Overcrowding.
- 37 Patients Removed to the Isolation Hospital.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

- 3 New Milk Houses Built.
- 8 New Cowsheds Built.
- 15 Cowsheds Newly Paved and Drained.
- 40 Cowsheds Cleansed and Whitewashed by Order.

BAKEHOUSES.

I have made 60 visits to the 23 Bakehouses in the District, eight owners were specially requested to Cleanse and Repair their Bakehouses.

PETROLEUM.

Seven persons are Licensed to store Carbide of Calcium, and three Petrol. All Petroleum Stores have been Inspected, 10 samples of Petroleum collected and tested by me, all of which have been in accordance with the Petroleum Acts.

(Signed)

D. DENHAM,

Inspector.

EASTON,

January 26th, 1909.

TO THE
WINCHESTER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1908.

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